



# STATE SENATOR MIKE DELPH

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## Fellow Taxpayers:

To cut costs, this flyer has been reduced in size. For more information about this legislative session, please visit my Web site.

M.D.

[WWW.IN.GOV/SENATOR.DELPH](http://WWW.IN.GOV/SENATOR.DELPH)

## SEN. DELPH: BILLS I SUPPORTED THIS SESSION

✓ **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH:** In an effort to make the legislative branch less dependent on lobbyists for research on public policy topics, Senate Enrolled Act 84, which I authored, allows legislators and the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) to access state-funded research resources at state colleges and universities. It also requests that LSA conduct a survey on the feasibility of establishing a division of research and policy development within the agency.

✓ **RX ABUSE:** Lawmakers supported a bill aimed at combating prescription drug abuse in Indiana. Senate Enrolled Act 356, which I authored, expands the data collected by Indiana's prescription monitoring program (INSPECT) and allows INSPECT to release information on prescribers and patients to the state toxicologist, Medicaid fraud investigators and substance abuse assistance programs. This change should help better identify problem prescribers and 'doctor shopper' patients in an effort to reduce prescription drug abuse.



✓ **School Funding Flexibility:** House Enrolled Act 1367 provides schools more flexibility to transfer additional monies from locally supported capital project funds used for construction into state-supported funds used for instructional purposes. Schools agreeing to pay freezes for staff would be allowed to transfer more money. This measure will provide up to \$82 million to help prevent teacher layoffs and preserve instructional programs.



✓ **Unemployment Insurance:** Lawmakers helped protect Hoosier jobs by passing Senate Enrolled Act 23 to delay a scheduled increase in unemployment insurance premiums paid by employers. The delay will save Indiana employers an estimated \$400 million this year, relieving them of an additional financial burden in a tough economy while helping them create jobs and avoid layoffs.



# SEN. MIKE DELPH

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 29 TAXPAYERS



## Voters in November will decide if property tax caps will be added to state Constitution – once and for all

**H**oosier voters in November's general election will determine if permanent caps on property tax rates will be added to the Indiana Constitution.

Members of the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives this session have given final passage to a resolution that would constitutionally cap property tax rates at 1 percent for owner-occupied homes, 2 percent for other residential and agricultural properties and 3 percent for businesses.

This historic tax reform effort sets the stage to add the 1-2-3 caps to Indiana's Constitution. In order to change the state Constitution, an amendment must be passed by two separately-elected sessions of the Indiana General Assembly and then approved by voters.

Immediately after a property tax crisis that sent tax bills skyrocketing and hordes of homeowners to the Statehouse demanding reforms, senators and House members in 2008 passed the

phased-in property tax caps into law and started the constitutional amendment process. The Republican-led Senate kept momentum for the amendment by passing it again in 2009, but the caps did not receive a vote last year in the Democrat-controlled House.

Lawmakers are keeping a cautious eye on property assessments to ensure they reflect fair market value and are not artificially inflated to simply boost local government revenue. The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance must examine and sign off on counties' assessments before tax rates are approved.

This year's action by both the Senate and House proves lawmakers are once again siding with taxpayers and not tax spenders – keeping the promise of permanent property tax relief and reform.

Because lawmakers successfully passed the amendment through both chambers, Hoosier voters will have the final say on Nov. 2.

## GOVERNMENT ETHICS REFORMS

Lawmakers proactively passed a comprehensive ethics reform package aimed at improving transparency in government and providing greater accountability over state leaders.

House Enrolled Act 1001, which I co-authored, creates a one-year cooling off period before a retired legislator could become a lobbyist and requires uniform reporting by all lobbyists. The measure further reduces the threshold for reported one-time lobbyist expenses from \$100 to \$50 a day and drops the annual total from \$500 to \$250.

Reforms include expanding registration and reporting requirements for legislative liaisons of state agencies and universities.

The law prohibits statewide officeholders, other than the governor, from appearing or using their name in advertisements funded with state-appropriated dollars, unless approved by a budgetary oversight committee. Also, statewide officeholders and statewide candidates are barred from campaign fundraising during budget-writing sessions.



Delph receives the 2010 Mr. Clean Award from Common Cause of Indiana for his work on ethics reforms.



**COLTS:** Sen. Mike Delph, with team president Bill Polian and defensive player Jerraud Powers in attendance, honors the Colts for another "super" season.



**CLERMONT:** Sen. Mike Delph reads "Yertle the Turtle" to first graders at Robey Elementary School. The event was part of the National Read Across America day.